deficit during the corresponding period of the last three years arc given below:—

(Apr.-Sept.)	Value in US$
1994-95	1230.44
1995-96	2380.71
1996-97	1813.17
1997-98	2495.96

(b) Trade deficit is the excess of imports over exports. While imports arc related to the need of the economy, exports depend *inter alia* on various factors such as international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, domestic infrastructure cost of export credit, transaction costs, etc.

(c) The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures arc being continuously undertaken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include, simplification of export—import policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and involving the state Governcmnt in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interaction with industry trade and other export promotional institutions.

Policy on services export sector

666. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to adopt an integrated policy on the services export sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Government recognizes the importance of services export and has taken several policy measures to encourage exports from this sector. These policy measures include permitting service providers to import Capital goods at concessional rates of duty under the Export Promotion Goods Scheme, allowing import of restricted items related to the Hotel and Tourism Industry which arc required by Hotels, Rcstaurcnts, Travel agents, tour operators and other specified categories, granting Special Import Licences to service providers in the telecommunication and electronic field and fiscal incentive in the form of 50% tax exemption on export profits in the service sector. In addition, the software technology Park Scheme encourages undertaking software development for export.

Restriction on export of masoor dall

667. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even through there is a surplus of Masoor Dall in the country, the export of the same is restricted to certain specific quantity on the basis of Special Export licences issued; and

(b) if so, the justification for such restriction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Though the production of pulses during the year 1996-97 is slightly higher than those in the preceding two years, the gap between the demand and availability is still estimated at around 5 million tonnes. However a limited quantity of all varieties of pulses is permitted for export each year to meet the demand of the Indian ethnic population abroad.

For the current licensing year of 1997-98, a quantity of 10,000 MTs of all varieties of pulses have been released for export.